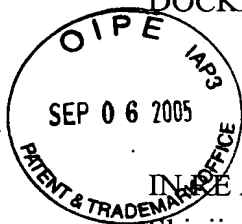


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DOCKET NO.: 243044US3/phh



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Shinji ASAMI, et al.

SERIAL NO: 10/666,240

GROUP: 2852

FILED: September 22, 2003

EXAMINER:

FOR: BINDING APPARATUS, PAPER PROCESSING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING SYSTEM

**LETTER**

Mail Stop DD  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith is an European Search Report for the Examiner's consideration. The reference(s) cited therein have been previously filed on March 15, 2004.

Respectfully Submitted,

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European Patent  
Office

# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 05 00 8612

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search <b>The Hague</b>		Date of completion of the search <b>29 June 2005</b>	Examiner <b>Boeykens, J</b>
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X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons  & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on  
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

29-06-2005

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